

## **Minutes of the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council**

**Wednesday, September 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Present:** Mac Davis, Rebecca Turner, Jim Dwyer, Brad Schimel, Carolyn Evenson, Peter Schuler, Marcia Jante, Karl Held, Paul Giesler, Larry Nelson, and Maura McMahon.

**Also Present:** Tony Dziedzic, Bonnie Morris, Dick Manke, Mike Giese, Sara Carpenter, JoAnn Eiring, and Keith Swartz.

### **Approve Minutes of July 30, 2008**

Hearing no objections, Davis declared the minutes of July 30 approved.

### **Introduce New CJCC Coordinator**

Davis introduced Rebecca Turner as the new CJCC Coordinator. Turner said she last worked as Program Director for Wisconsin Community Services at the Milwaukee County House of Correction. She managed a program that provides education and vocational training opportunities as well as job placement assistance to offenders in the Milwaukee County area. During her tenure with WCS, she managed a gang and violence intervention project through OJA. Prior to that, she worked in the foster care case management system. She attended UW-Milwaukee where she earned her MS in Criminal Justice. She is getting married October 18 and her new last name will be Luczaj (pronounced "Loo-chi").

### **Demonstration of the CJCC Website**

Evenson said the Supreme Court website will link to the County's. The CJCC website can be accessed on the County website via the Courtswebpage under Criminal/Traffic or via the Health & Human Services webpage. She hopes Information Systems will eventually put it under quick links on the County homepage. Evenson said the idea is to make information available to users and the public on the current 22 CJCC programs. Each program will have its own PDF program sheet including information on program description, goals, agency contact information, requirements, services provided, etc.

### **Update of WIRED Employment Grant**

Dziedzic, Vice President of Regional Operations for Kaiser Group, Inc., said they are collaborating with the Workforce Development Center to run this facilitating employment program for offenders. He distributed copies of "Facilitated Employment Program for Offenders – WIRED Innovation Fund Demonstration Project." Dziedzic said 39 regions nationwide received federal WIRED funds for this initiative. The Regional Workforce Alliance and the Milwaukee 7 received \$2.5 million to look for "talent development."

An RFP went out from RWA with innovation and sustainability being key. Many proposals came in with different ideas on how to make this work. The Kaiser Group/Workforce Development, Inc. idea will put their resources together and work with the offender population. It is based on a pilot

they did last year, with the support of the County, where they worked with Huber inmates on intensive case management and business services. The pilot was successful. Of the 12 Huber inmates they case managed, they found employment for nine of them. About one year later, four of those nine were still employed at the same place, two were back in jail, and three could not be located. Retention was not part of this pilot although it will part of the WIRED initiative. They are dedicating two full-time staff solely for the purpose of working with the offender population at Huber and the County Jail and those on probation and parole. They will also extend services to ex-offenders who are no longer in the system but need support and case management help.

Dziedzic said this one-year grant totals \$78,329 plus \$50,000 leveraged from CDBG, CJCC, and W-O-W Board. The grant will fund two full-time staff plus pay support service dollars for child care, bus passes and gas vouchers, facility space, GED testing, etc. Dziedzic believes they can leverage more dollars once the WIRED funds are gone. This is a comprehensive model that does not duplicate current programming but instead works in concert. They will offer workshops, teach job-seeking skills, and more importantly, offer a case manager and educational workshops for employers on incentives. A large piece of this project is post-employment services. Dziedzic said they have committed to one year of follow-up services even if the program does not exist more than one year. The primary goal is to reduce recidivism. To be eligible for the grant, they had to present performance goals. These include 100 job placements in one year, an average wage of \$14 per hour, post employment follow-up services, and wraparound and supportive services for all. They hope 80% will still be employed in a self-sustaining job after one year. Staff have been hired and the program is set to begin on October 1.

Dwyer asked Dziedzic to explain their performance measurement tools. Dziedzic said everything they do is entered into an assets system. This is a state tracking system which will allow them to pull reports, review numbers and statistics, and measure success. They are also creating their own database that will capture statistics on attendance at workshops, securing child care and transportation, mental health referrals, etc. Dwyer felt it was everyone's responsibility to monitor how this works and be able to work with this through all agencies in the council.

Nelson asked how they would determine clientele. Dziedzic said staff at Huber, the Jail, and Corrections will do the initial screening and provide lists of individuals they believe are best suited for the program and the staff there are more than happy to do this. Individuals not placed can still receive other services.

### **Update on PPAC Activities**

Davis said the Wisconsin Supreme Court formed this citizen committee to help them with their planning process. Evenson said Dwyer is on the PPAC Committee and she is on a subcommittee of PPAC called Effective Justice Strategies. A new member has been chosen to replace her after she retires in October. Evenson advised there are some very important activities going on at the state level which dovetail with some of our CJCC projects. One of the key initiatives the subcommittee is focusing on is the AIM (Assist-Inform-Measure) Project. This project involves providing resource information and data to assist judges in making more informed decisions and providing feedback to judges on how offenders have performed after they complete their probation with such issues as recidivism, etc. EJS was awarded a grant to hire a two year coordinator to oversee AIM

and recruit other counties to participate. The coordinator will implement the process, manage the data collected, and recruit other pilot counties.

Evenson said the second project is the EJS inventory project. It started with the Chief Justice traveling around the state and learning about the different innovative practices and programs occurring in court systems elsewhere in the state. All of these different practices will be catalogued and put into a format accessible to others. Waukesha is piloting it on the website and as part of the pilot we are also assessing how best to work with other counties to ensure their program information is correct.

There are efforts through the subcommittee to encourage a state level coordinating council. A work group has been formed through EJS to look into the benefits and downfalls of creating such a council and what their role and function would be. The National Institute of Corrections is interested in helping Wisconsin and the EJS subcommittee with research on efforts in other states.

Evenson said there are ongoing efforts toward a Community Corrections Act. A draft of the act was presented to the EJS Committee. A committee was formed to create the draft that was co-chaired by a couple of judges and there was some very vocal involvement from government members. Again, they are looking at best practices from other states and will determine how effective programs could be set up in this state. The principles of the CCA are public safety, decentralization, community-based effective programs, and evidence-based practices.

Evenson talked about the Justice Reinvestment Initiative to increase public safety and reduce spending on corrections. Ten members from the judicial branch, twelve from the executive branch, and ten from the legislative branch participated in a site visit. They will first determine how well positioned the state is to embrace some kind of change in its corrections system. They feel the work of the EJS Committee in setting up AIM and other programs has put us in a positive position and it appears likely that Wisconsin will be selected. The initiative has worked with a number of states already, three of which will participate in a conference in November in Madison. The strategy is multi-focused, part of which involves analyzing the prison population and community spending. They provide policy makers with options for savings. Evenson said she had information available for anyone interested. She noted these are big happenings in the state and in the area of justice and felt it was in our best interests to be aware of what's going on and use it to our advantage.

### **2009 CJCC Budget Update and CJCC Programs Update**

Schuler distributed copies of the proposed 2009 budget for CJCC. The budget shows a reduction of \$46,682 from the 2008 budget. Schuler said this is basically due to losing the Alcohol Treatment Court Grant. The total budget for 2009 is \$915,477. Schuler advised we also lost state homeless grant funds that resulted in the loss of a part-time worker in the jail. However, the County Executive agreed to fund the program and keep the position. Our grants coordinator believes future grants are very likely due to the success of our alcohol treatment programs.

Carpenter distributed a variety of information and statistics on CJCC programs which she discussed as outlined. These included the Alcohol and Treatment Court Program, Day Report Center, Pretrial Services Screening Intake, Pretrial Services, Intoxicated Driver Intervention Program, SCRAM

Program, Operating After Revocation Program, and the Adult Community Service Options Program.

Carpenter said the Alcohol and Treatment Court Program has been very successful and there are currently 25 participants. Shesaid they began using SCRAM for high risk OWI offenders and they recently hired a SCRAM coordinator who will start October 6. Carpenter advised they will track outcomes and she is working with their IT department to establish a database. Carpenter said they are suggesting some amendments to the OAR Program to improve the process and make it more fair which Schimel explained further. Carpenter said they are also talking about ways to reduce the amount of failed first court appearances. During the last quarter, the Adult Community Service Options Program saved 43 Huber jail days.

Jante was pleased to announce the receipt of Drug free Communities \$125,000 one-year grant, renewable for up to ten years, to build a countywide coalition on preventing youth drinking.

**Future Meeting Date**  
November 19, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.